Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That is quite a different scheme. That was for the construction of a dam at Naduthodu about 75 feet high for the benefit of the kole lands there. That was during the time of Mr. Narayana Ayyar.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* There are no kole lands there. It is just about Kallayi Chira.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The water from that reservoir is to be taken to the kole lands for irrigation.

Announcement of the extention of the term of the Council

Mr. President : I have to announce that His Highness is pleased to order that the term of the present Legislative Council will be further extended by one year from the 14th of July 1943.

Announcement of the Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee

I have to announce that nomination papers for the election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee have been received from Messrs. V. K. Bhaskara Menon, P. P. Devassy, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan and A. B. Salem. The election will be conducted at 5 p.m. today by the Secretary to the Government.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILL

The Cochin Village Courts Bill—*(cont.)*

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Village Courts Bill be taken up and finally passed.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* With your leave, Sir, I take this opportunity to thank the Hon'ble Members of this House for the easy and speedy passage they have vouchsafed for the Bill and for the very valuable and helpful suggestions that they have made, the acceptance of which has in no small measure conduced to the evolving of a much improved bill. It is impossible to exaggerate the help I have received by the useful and constructive proposals that have been made on the various provisions of the Bill and the manner in which the various sections of the House co-operated with me in this matter. The helpful attitude adopted by the House is, I feel, not a little due to the desire on the part of the Hon'ble Members to see that the local tribunals discharge their legitimate role in the way it is expected of them. Nor am I unmindful of the very heavy responsibility that has consequently fallen on my shoulders to deserve the trust and confidence reposed in me and it shall be my endeavour to repay this trust and confidence and see to the best of my ability that these Courts function in the efficient manner they should. I thank you, Sir.

(At this stage the Hon'ble President vacated the Chair and Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan, B.A., Deputy President, took the Chair.)

Non-official Buisness—Bills

(1) The Cochin Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amendment) Bill *(cont.)*

Deputy President : Now we can continue the discussion on Mr. Iyyu's Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I had the privilege of complimenting the Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam the day before yesterday for having tabled a very sensible resolution, perhaps the most sensible that he has hitherto done. I am sorry that as far as this amendment is concerned I have to do the very reverse. The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam with his indefatigable energy stated yesterday in this House that he had been touring—nay even raiding all the villages of the State—in his new sphere of activities and he was telling us that during those sojourns he had the miserable misfortune to come across widowed mothers, fatherless children, both boys and girls, and it was, he said, to redress the grievances of those persons as a result of the Child Marriage Restraint Act in existence now that he tabled the amendment. That was his statement. But information available hitherto does not show that nobody who had joined the army in the present titanic struggle has been included in the casuality list thereof. That was Cochin's good fortune. We have to work upon real statistics when we make statements like this.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* On a point of information, Sir, without interruption I may say that the Government have decided to conduct a survey of the conditions of the families of those who have gone for military service and the survey will be over during this summer and after that we will find the enormous number of orphans in the State.

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